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26 August 1981

Latin America Report

(FOUO 18/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF NEW CABINET CHIEF

PY112225 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST in English: 11 Aug 81 pp 1, 5

[Special to the DAILY POST by Herbert Zschech]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Supreme Court Justice Leitaó de Abreu, who will be sworn in this week as the successor to General Golbery do Couto e Silva as president Figueiredo's chief of staff, is not a newcomer to this post. He held the same job under President Medici. Many politicians, still somewhat stunned and puzzled by the surprising resignation of Golbery, are inclined to view this fact as a possible clue to what the nation can expect after this change within the innermost circle of the Brazilian political regime.

The Medici administration was the tightest and most anti-liberal of the five presidential governments that came to power in the wake of the military coup of 1964. The Medici regime was most efficient in repressing all currents of political subversion and even criticism. It acted efficiently, but discretely. The people in general did not know many details about this repression, due to rigorous censorship clamped on all the communications media and artistic production. Outwardly, it was a most "civilized" regime, causing the impression that the opposition gradually faded out because they had not much to criticize. Medici himself on a certain occasion commented with journalists on the strong contrast between the quiet political climate in Brazil and the agitation prevailing in much of the world, especially in Latin America, with terrorism, armed revolts, coups d'etat. Moreover, Brazil at Medici's time lived a period of economic prosperity, and government propaganda was used to enhance the bright aspects and occult the darker ones.

Medici, however, is not properly a politician. He has the fame of being a gourmet, and his major private interest is soccer. His policymaker was the chief of his civil office, Leitaó de Abreu.

Leitaó de Abreu was called by Medici from Rio Grande do Sul where he was chief of staff for State Governor Ilgo Menegheti who left a legacy of toughness in coping with labor unrest and events concerning political security in the delicate frontier areas.

It should be recalled that Leitaó de Abreu and President Figueiredo worked together under Medici on the same floor of the Planalto Palace--one was the chief of the president's civil office, the other of his military office. Everything goes to show that they worked in good harmony, without political divergencies.

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When Leitaó de Abreu after the end of the Medici period was named a justice of the Supreme Court, his image as a hardliner changed remarkably. In the following years, he acquired fame as a legal and constitutional liberal at least to a certain extent. During a brief period as judge of the Superior Court of Elections, he gave a widely commented verdict that threw out as unconstitutional a law barring individuals from running for office if they were in any form associated with a criminal charge, including the phase of preliminary police inquiries. Leitaó stressed in a remarkable judgment that one of the most elementary legal rules says that people are innocent until proven guilty. Also on other occasions, he gave emphasis to human rights.

Now, with Leitaó de Abreu again assuming the duties he held under Medici, many observers feel that this might mark the start of a reversal to a hardline course following the democratic opening led by Figueiredo of which Golbery was the undisputed planner.

Those who believe in Schopenhauer's thesis about the unchangeability of the human character and the ways of everyone's conduct, will be inclined to presume that the liberalization course lately maintained in Brazilian politics under Golbery's influence will change under Leitaó's influence. Leitaó himself made a remark immediately after the announcement of his appointment about political trends obeying the rhythm of heartbeat, with periodical contractions and distensions. This may be interpreted two ways, it being not clear if he wanted to imply that the distension phase is over. But he said also that political repression, often necessary for preservation of social order, is necessarily limited in time.

As always, the new policy maker will start his activities with a general credit of confidence. Nearly all politicians voiced guarded optimism on the continuation of the political opening, with the exception of Leonel Brizola who as a former governor of Rio Grande do Sul should have some insight into the problem. Brizola has expressed fear that Brazil may be driven into a course similar to that of the Argentina of the generals.

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COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL

DAILY VIEWS POLITICS AFTER GOLBERY RESIGNATION

PY162052 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 15 Aug 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Change in Brasilia"]

[Text] When Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva resigned abruptly last week, the entire country took a collective gasp and held its breath, waiting to see who would take his place as the most important political figure in the administration of President Joao Figueiredo. Many people felt that Golbery, in fact, was more important than the president in the political scheme of things.

A week after the fact, and with the rapid and smooth transition into Golbery's position of Joao Leitao de Abreu, who was ex-President Emilio Medici's civilian chief of staff, the nation has learned to breath easier. Golbery's departure has not caused a crisis and he is not now seen to be the all-powerful political "magician" that he once was thought to be. And Leitao de Abreu has not borne out the image of being a hard lining minister devoted to rolling back the liberal political gains achieved under the Geisel and Figueiredo regimes.

There were fears that Leitao de Abreu, as one of the key aides to Medici, who presided over one of the least liberal military administrations in the early 1970's would represent the forces that oppose "abertura" [political opening]. But that line of reasoning is as fallacious as assuming that President Figueiredo also is against "abertura" because he was President Medici's military chief of staff. In fact, Figueiredo has advanced the cause of "abertura" more than any single figure in government. Leitao de Abreu, in his first week on the job, went out of his way to assure the nation that the political redemocratization was, as the president has said, irreversible and that he would be working for its realization.

The resignation of Golbery has pointed up the reality of the moment. The political spirit of Brazil today does not depend upon individuals. The movement for "abertura" is not a "gift" of the current ruling administration in Brasilia but a fact of life imposed by the social situation of the country which is significantly changed from the times in the late 1960's and early 1970's when both Figueiredo and Leitao de Abreu were key figures in the military government.

Redemocratization is perceived in Brasilia as a strategic national goal by most responsible figures in government. We believe that the timetable will not suffer any change because of the change over from Golbery to Leitao de Abreu.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

OPPOSITION MONITORING ON HARASSMENT IN COUNTRY

PA080013 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1912 GMT 4 Aug 81

[Text] Caracas, 4 Aug (PL)--The following is a note released here by a counter-revolutionary organization called Independent and Democratic Cuba (C.I.D.).

"Permanent information for international press...news agencies and correspondents...newsmen and leaders...

"Cuba-communications-international traffic-control of calls: Cubans who have recently arrived in Venezuela have reported the existence of a monitoring center of international radiotelephone communications that the Fidel Castro government maintains in Cuba's central zone (peaks of Coyantes and the far west hills of Soroa)...through this center, the Castro government permanently listens to radio-telephone communications between Latin America and the United States...through selective work by country (through frequencies) based on lists with names of people (leaders), organizations and public or private enterprises (transnational companies). Following a random method, the Cuban regime obtains valuable information from its ability to listen to international long distance telephone calls made through the radiotelephone and satellite systems...

"Centers of political importance such as Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil in South America; and Panama, Costa Rica and El Salvador in Central America, are controlled by the Cuban monitoring system...in maritime radiotelephone communications, they maintain permanent tracking of the following frequencies: 2080, 2182, 2638 in the AM-single side band...also the frequencies between 8000 and 89000 KHZ, all in the AM single side band...the Cuban fishing fleet through its S.O.B. [not further identified] stations controls the ship-to-ship communications in 8760 KHZ AM.

"The calls through the "high-seas" system (radiotelephone service which permits communication between any ship and a point of land in American territory) are monitored in the frequencies between 8000 and 12000 KHZ in AM-single side band...the Strait of Yucatan and the southern zone surrounding the U.S. naval base of Guantanamo, in Oriente Province, are controlled on SSB and VHF systems...

"Cubans who have recently arrived in Venezuela from Havana have reported the incidents which occurred in the town of Regla, located opposite the city of Havana in the eastern zone of the Bay of Havana...a large group of women carrying pots and utensils marched through some blocks of the town in an open challenge and as

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a demonstration of protest and repudiation of the Fidel Castro regime...armed groups of the repressive police quickly appeared and broke up the march with blows and arrested the women and youths who participated in it...the Cuban authorities remained completely silent on this popular protest...

"Commander Huber Matos, secretary general of the CID, has expressed in Los Angeles his support of the Salvadoran junta headed by Napoleon Duarte...Matos expressed his support for Duarte in the face of the real threat of the Marxist guerrillas inspired and financed by Havana...he also asked for the support of the democratic governments of the continent in view of the possibility that the Cuban people will carry out the insurrection in Cuba.

"Huber Matos is engaged in intense activity to organize the Second CID Congress that will be held in August in the city of Miami...more than 600 Cuban delegates and special international guests will attend the congress in the Florida city to study and discuss an extensive agenda which ranges from ideological definitions to the dismantling of the totalitarian society and the building of democracy in Cuba... Venezuela will send a large delegation made up of more than 20 people to the congress...the group is headed by Delia Henriquez, Roberto Fontanillas, Julio Rodriguez Lamelas, Miguel Benejan, Raul Abreu, Bertoldo Brito...Nilo Martinez... Elba Gonzalez.

"Important statements are expected to be made by Huber Matos in the next congress to be held in Miami...the current Latin American situation, the conflicts in the Caribbean region, the domestic political difficulties that Fidel Castro is confronting and the development of the Cuban exiles' militant attitude with a deep ideological motivation are almost explosive ingredients for a probable destabilization of Castro's regime...

"Colleagues of the international press...friendly newsmen...men of the media... help us to make known the truth about Cuba, a people and their tragedy in the search of their freedom.

"CID--Venezuela. Unity of Dissemination."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

UNITED STATES REHEARSING 'INVASION' OF GRENADA

PA111701 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1610 GMT 11 Aug 81

[Article by Jorge Luna: "The United States Rehearses Invasion of Grenada"]

[Text] The United States is contemplating a direct air and land military invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada to install there a pro-U.S. regime, according to a plan rehearsed this weekend on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

The exercises, the objective of which is an area identified as "Ambar and the Ambarinas," which is comparable to Grenada and the Carriacou and Petit Martinique islands under its sovereignty, include a commando attack by 300 paratroopers, followed by the landing of marines in amphibious units and their subsequent relief by a contingent of the regular U.S. Army.

As part of the biggest military maneuvers since World War II, "Ocean Venture-81," these exercises have--under the U.S. Administration that has made available the most resources to the military-industrial complex--very specific objectives in their Caribbean context.

These are not traditional military maneuvers. As Rear Adm Robert P. McKenzie, commander of the contingency force in the region, has said, they seek to stress "the U.S. military capacity to act in the Caribbean."

After stressing that the Caribbean is a "vital zone for the U.S. sea routes," McKenzie reported that the invasion of "Ambar" was carried out after the failure of negotiations due to an alleged seizure of 30 U.S. hostages on that fictitious island.

After freeing the hostages and militarily controlling the Caribbean island, the rear admiral said, the U.S. commandos "would install a regime favorable to Washington and opposed to the government which permitted the alleged hostage crisis."

Elections would follow the seizure of power but the U.S. troops would remain in the territory until those elections were held, he added.

These provocative maneuvers, Caribbean analysts believe, had their origin 29 months ago in Washington when current Prime Minister Maurice Bishop overthrew the repressive and pro-U.S. regime of Eric Gairy.

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By that time, March 13, 1979, the United States had already contemplated placing a naval blockade on the young revolution during its initial 3 weeks. This fact was publicly admitted later.

However, the Carter administration decided to scrap this plan at the last minute in the hope of destabilizing the administration of the new jewel movement through other means.

The Grenadian political process, which had been plagued by propaganda, economic, diplomatic and even terrorist attacks, managed to overcome all of these maneuvers.

Nevertheless, two actions in the military sphere can [words indistinct] in June 1980, when Bishop's government was only 15 months old. Local terrorists with overt links abroad set off a powerful explosive device under the platform at which all of the leaders of Grenadian revolution were sitting during a mass event.

The Grenadian leaders were not hurt but there were 100 people injured and 3 dead, most women and children.

The attack, which was practically reported to the world by U.S. diplomats in the nearby island of Barbados, contributed to the development of a tremendous new strain in relations between Saint George's and Washington.

However, not satisfied with these activities, which were thwarted each time because of the tremendous popular support enjoyed by the Grenadian process, it planned a new mercenary invasion against the island in April.

The plan, which was opportunely bared after the arrest of 10 North American and Canadian racists belonging to the Ku Klux Klan and other neonazi organizations in those countries, included the seizing of Dominique (in which the overthrown Dictator John would participate) in order to use that country later as a "springboard" against Grenada.

These terrorists also confessed that they were backed by financially influential persons in the United States and Canada, including more than one southern legislator.

But since everything has failed, it seems that Washington, which in almost 3 years has tried everything except direct intervention and has even blocked international credits for the development of Grenada, now wants to frighten and boast.

The United States, one of the largest countries in the world, is practicing in Vieques what it would like to do in Grenada, one of the smallest nations on earth. That is why the detailed plan for a direct military invasion of "Ambar" exists.

In the simulated exercises of the past weekend the 75th "Rangers" Battalion flew 300 paratroopers from their home base in California nonstop to "Ambar," approximately the same distance it would take to attack Grenada.

On this occasion they had, in addition to 14 U.S. warships, the support of 2 British and 1 Netherlands warship. (The three countries still have colonial possessions in the Caribbean).

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The political objective of "Ocean Venture-81" could not be more obvious. During the Vieques exercises, it is presumed that "Ambar" is supported by "Orange" (Cuba), which in turn is backed by "Red" (the Soviet Union). Rear Admiral McKenzie accused "Ambar" of "exporting terrorist activities to the neighboring islands," a charge which certain Caribbean newspapers and governments lodge against Grenada every once in a while.

The fictitious "Ambar" island would have some 2,000 troops, a figure equivalent to the number of Grenadian soldiers (according to unidentified U.S. diplomats quoted by U.S. press agencies).

In other words, there are just too many similarities.

And Ronald Reagan's reply to his military officers also seems to outdo, with this showy display of military power, all of the "dirty tricks" used until now against Grenada.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

NEWS MEDIA HIGHLIGHT CASTRO'S MEXICAN VISIT

PA091615 Havana PRELA in Spanish 1315 GMT 9 Aug 81

[Text] Havana, 9 Aug (PL)--Cuba's main national newspapers today devoted extensive space to the conclusion of President Fidel Castro's visit to Mexico.

In an unusual Sunday edition, GRANMA, organ of the Communist Party, headlines Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's farewell for the Cuban leader in a page totally dedicated to the subject.

The report of GRANMA's special correspondent at the Cozumel meeting emphasizes the prevailing happiness during the meeting and the expressions of friendship and esteem that the Cuban president received from the Mexican authorities and people.

The newspaper devotes two pages to pictures of the visit under the headline, "New Expression of the Friendship Between Cuba and Mexico." It includes photographs of the welcoming ceremony, the meeting between the two presidents, the reciprocal receptions and other details.

On its main international page, it published the joint communique issued at the end of Castro's 2-day stay in Mexico.

The regular Sunday newspaper JUVENTUD REBELDE also devotes its main space to the visit with a headline that states: "Cuban-Mexican Relations Are Excellent and In a Continuous Process of Expansion."

In red letters, the newspaper headlines Fidel Castro's statement: "I'm leaving Mexico happy as when I left aboard the Granma." [Sentence as received] Castro made the statement as he left Mexico aboard the yacht which took him to Cozumel on Friday.

Squared off on the front page, the newspaper publishes the Cuban-Mexican joint communique.

On the last page of the newspaper under the headline "Twenty-Six Hours of Friendship, Understanding and Respect," there is a photographic report by a special PRENSA LATINA correspondent which includes nine photographs of the main aspects of the visit.

The rest of the Cuban news media also highlighted the reports on the third meeting between Fidel Castro and Jose Lopez Portillo. These included a television transmission of an extensive report on the first day of activities in Cozumel.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

MALMIERCA HIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPING TIES WITH MONGOLIA

PA160253 Havana PRELA in English 1850 GMT 15 Aug 81

[By Leandro Pubillones]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 16 Aug (PL)--Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Cuban foreign relations minister, highlighted here the outstanding development of the ties between Cuba and Mongolia.

Malmierca spoke during a meal in his honor, given by the Mongol Foreign Relations Minister Mangalyn Dugersuren, and attended among others by the member of the political bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Peoples Party of Mongolia (MPRP) Dandingiyn Gombozjab and the deputy president of the Council of Ministers of Mongolia, Choynoryn Suren.

The Cuban foreign minister arrived on Friday at Mongolia to pay a four-day official and friendly visit and he immediately started talks.

During the meal, Malmierca thanked the warm and friendly welcome he and his delegations were given and said that Mongolia and Cuba are united in their common aspiration to build socialism and communism, by the Marxist-Leninist ideology and by the fact that both Cubans and Mongols have the same friends and enemies.

He added that the visit to Cuba by the Mongol top leader Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal, and the talks he held with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, and the visit to Mongolia by the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, Army Chief of Staff Raul Castro, placed the bilateral relations to a top level.

The foreign minister said that the Cuban people, party and government felt as their own the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the Revolutionary Peoples Party of Mongolia and for the Republic of Mongolia held in past March and July this year respectively.

The Mongol revolution, the Cuban minister said, through the consistent implementation of the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of the country, the selfless work of its sons under the leadership of the MPRP and with the generous and interested support of the Soviet Union, practically jumped from subjugation to the cosmos.

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He went on to say that in the American country Cuba faces the presence of the U.S. imperialism which is always seeking no matter how criminal they are, to interrupt the process of revolutionary development.

Mongolia has in Asia the presence of Maoism, which provokes substantial investments of human and material resources which could be devoted to the social and economic development of the country.

These two enemies, Malmierca said, are becoming ever more allied. He recalled that Cuba and Mongolia rely on the other hand on the same friendship, multifaceted cooperation and disinterested aid of the Soviet Union and the two are united to the rest of the socialist community.

The Mongol foreign minister said that the first visit of a Cuban foreign minister to Mongolia is an outstanding event for the friendship, fraternal and close cooperation between the parties, states and the peoples.

He later congratulated the Cuban people for the achievements in the social and economic construction and said that the international presence and the influence of socialist Cuba are constantly growing.

He condemned the economic blockade and the armed interventions by U.S. reactionary circles against Cuba and said that the Cuban Government is working hard to deepen the progressive character of the nonaligned movement.

The Mongolian minister said that the international situation is turning ever more complex, though the humanity is lucky to rely on the socialist community, with the Soviet Union at the head which is able to stop the Chinese hegemonist actions now allied to U.S. reactionary elements.

The talks held between the Cuban and Mongol foreign relations ministers will continue today and will end next Tuesday with the signing of documents.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BRIEFS

REAGAN'S NEUTRON BOMB DECISIONS--The decision of President Ronald Reagan to manufacture neutron weapons proves the venturesome and hegemonic policy of the U.S. Government directed at blackmailing the peoples of the world and also shows the contempt of Washington toward its allies. When Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger on the 10th announced that Reagan had authorized the manufacture of those weapons, he affirmed that "these could not only be used in Europe" but "in any other place where there is the danger of U.S. forces being surpassed." Other sources point out that the hegemonic policy of Washington, which is also directed at obtaining military superiority on a world-wide level, was evidenced even more with the statements of presidential adviser Edwin Meese and White House spokesmen Larry Speakes. According to U.S. military experts, the "advantages" of the neutron weapons, a barbaric means of massive destruction, is that it only exterminates the human beings and leaves the material assets intact. Observers affirm that this way, the United States is placing the peoples of Western Europe under the neutron sword of Damocles, which Washington would let drop, regardless of its terrible consequences, under the pretext that the interests of the United States and its allies "were in danger." [Text] [PA141236 Havana PRELA in Spanish 0045 GMT 13 Aug 81]

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COUNTRY SECTION

SURINAME

ALUMINUM COMPANY TO REDUCE PRODUCTION

PA170328 Paramaribo PRELA in English to PRELA Havana 0030 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Paramaribo, 16 Aug (PL)--The Suriname Aluminum Company, SURALCO, has decided to reduce its production. This was so explained because of the situation on the world market of aluminum that is getting worse. The 'ALCOA' mother company of the American owned SURALCO, will now reduce the aluminum production in Suriname with 15-20 percent. President Chin a Sen was informed of this by SURALCO's manager Worth Hobbs. For the time being the reducing of production does not mean the dismissal of workers, the president was told. Fred Derby, president of the SURALCO Workers Union, is not alarmed by this decision since according to him SURALCO had made a very ambitious prognosis for 1981 based on the high production in 1980. That is why reducing the production is no reason to panic, he told the press this week. SURALCO's prognosis for 1981 was a production of 2.7 million tons of bauxite and the same amount of aluminum as last year. The company will now bring this estimation back to 74 percent of its prognosis for bauxite and 83 percent for aluminum.

If this reduction has something to do with the negotiations the Suriname Government wishes to have soon with the SURALCO about increasing the levy on Suriname's bauxite, has not been confirmed.

Another multinational that the government shall negotiate with soon is the Dutch Company 'OGEM'. Sixty percent of the shares of Suriname's electricity company is in its own hands and in the near future a decision must be taken on if or how much will be paid to OGEM who owns the other 40 percent. There is a movement on, led by the recently established Communist Party of Suriname, which is of the opinion that nothing must be paid for the taking over of the shares since this company has been exploiting the country and the people for many years.

Summer holidays started here with a big campaign among scholars inspired by garrison commander Major Roy Horb for a 'clean the country' plan. Far more than a thousand youths registered and they will be sent to various parts of Paramaribo to help with cleaning yards, gutters and streets.

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

PCV CONDEMNS U.S. DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB

PA151644 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 2312 GMT 13 Aug 81

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Caracas, 13 Aug (PL)--"The Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) condemns the bomb 'which only kills people'." (TRIBUNA POPULAR) [organ of the PCV]

"The U.S. decision to mass produce the neutron bomb, the criminal device known by the name "people killer," opens a new more intense phase of the cold war being promoted by the international monopolies. This serious provocation is now added to the plans to install missiles in Europe and to the announcement of the 'biggest air and sea maneuver since World War II'."

This problem cannot be considered the exclusive concern of the "superpowers." It is of concern to all mankind due to the danger it entails. The future of mankind is at stake. It would be an illusion to think that an armed conflict would only involve the use of conventional weapons--already condemnable by themselves--or even just the so-called "tactical nuclear weapons." It would also be absurd to think that our hemisphere, specifically Venezuela, would be left out of the war. The immediate or long-term direct or indirect devastation of the world would undoubtedly include us.

The parties, unions and organizations of various types which represent national opinion, without political or ideological distinctions, must face this extremely serious situation and view its various facets. It is everyone's problem.

The mobilization of that national opinion against the initiative by the White House and Pentagon is a priority task. That is the essential objective of the proposal that we Venezuelan Communists are making. We are sure that this proposal represents everyone's feelings.

Our party believes that a broad debate on this subject must be begun. At the same time we must demand that, without delay, the national executive express its frank rejection of this monstrous decision by Reagan and his government in the United Nations. To avoid this moral and political imperative is to collaborate with the various types of warmongers who are taking mankind to the brink of a holocaust.

[dated] Caracas, 11 August 1981.

[signed] Political Bureau of the PCV Central Committee.

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

INDIANS CALL FOR EXPULSION OF U.S. RELIGIOUS SECT

PA162006 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1355 GMT 14 Aug 81

[Text] Caracas, 14 Aug (PL)--The participants at a meeting of Indians in eastern Venezuela, denounced the direct and indirect genocide committed in some communities and called for the expulsion of the "new tribes," a U.S. religious sect.

The meeting took place in Anzoategui State. The participants included representatives from the Indian communities of Wayu, Warao, Yecuana, Karina, Pemon, Yanoamu and approximately 20 organizations that defend Venezuela's national identity. They included scientists, sociologists and clergymen.

The participants signed a document reiterating requests made by institutions concerned with the Indians as ethnic groups. The document said that the "new tribes" should be expelled from the country because of their penetration work, their attack against the culture of the Indian communities and because there have been charges of espionage activities on the borders with Guyana and Brazil.

According to EL DIARIO DE CARACAS, the participants in the 5-day meeting scored the government's policy, which "apparently has not been codified but that is, in fact, aimed at the destruction of ethnic groups." This policy represents a negative political meddling in the Indian communities as well as systematic territorial plunder against the Indians in order to make room for the "colonizing advances of the state" and national, transnational and private companies.

The participants also mentioned direct genocidal actions such as the one committed in the case of the "Cuiva" Indians of Apure (Western Plains) and against the Wayu Indians, in the Guajira peninsula (a territory shared by Colombia and Venezuela).

The participants said there had been "indirect genocide" because health organizations have been negligent in treating epidemics and in disease-prevention work in regions where the Indians live.

The document approved by the participants at the meeting of Indians and Indian community leaders also denounced the trafficking in children carried out by "private and missionary institutions."

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON ARGENTINE MINISTER'S VISIT

PA180056 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 2305 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] Caracas, 17 Aug (PL)--The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has released a communique on the recent visit of Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion and the common positions of the two countries regarding international issues.

The following is the official VENPRESS AGENCY report:

"President Luis Herrera Campins accepted the invitation of his Argentine counterpart, Lt Gen Roberto e Viola, but he did not set a date, it was learned today in a press communique released by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry."

The invitation was conveyed by Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion, who has been visiting the country since Thursday the 13th on an official 4-day visit during which he met with the Venezuelan chief of state.

The communique states that in reiterating the decision of the Venezuelan Government in favor of the institutionalization of liberty and democracy, Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco noted the efforts being made by the Argentine Government to promote, develop and guarantee democracy in that country.

"The foreign ministers drew attention to the threats that exist from one extreme to another against the processes of institutionalization of democracy in that country.

"The foreign ministers drew attention to the threats that exist from one extreme to another against the processes of institutionalization of democracy and liberty in the continent," the communique adds.

It states that in this sense they expressed their rejection of any type of foreign intervention or attempts within the United States against their evolution.

It indicates that Zambrano Velasco informed his colleague Camilion about the preparations for the upcoming summit meeting of chiefs of state on cooperation and development to be held in October in Cancun, Mexico.

Zambrano Velasco expressed the conviction to his Argentine colleague that the Cancun meeting will contribute to bolstering the process of global negotiations in the United Nations for establishing a new international economic order.

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Both foreign ministers agreed that the world organization is the natural framework to represent the concert of nations of the international community, where the global negotiations should be held.

Reviewing the situation of Central America, the foreign ministers admitted that the broad expanse and complexity of the Central American socioeconomic political crisis demands deep solutions which can create conditions conducive to a more stable society.

They agreed to make utmost efforts within the spirit of Latin American solidarity to contribute to achieving just solutions in the area, which will preserve the stability of the region and prevent it from becoming a scenario of international confrontations that respond to interests alien to the countries of the region.

Regarding El Salvador, the foreign ministers expressed the hope that the Salvadorans themselves will find a political and democratic solution to the crisis in the country, without direct or indirect intervention that may lead to an undesirable internationalization of the conflict.

Both foreign ministers agreed on the need and importance of an over-all Latin American foreign policy strategy and periodic consultations at high political level on the diverse issues of common interest that affect or involve the position of the region in the international community, convinced that Latin America problems must be resolved by the Latin Americans themselves, without interference of any sort.

The foreign ministers referred with special emphasis to the determination of the two governments to strengthen the relations of friendship between the two countries and manifested their confidence that this new meeting will contribute to promoting activities of cooperation and strengthen the existing ties.

Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco decorated his Argentine colleague with the Order of the Liberator in the grade of grand cordon.

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

CONTINUING TALKS WITH COLOMBIA CALLED FOR

PA151758 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1415 GMT 15 Aug 81

[Text] Caracas, 15 Aug (PL)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano Velasco has said that "Colombia would be assuming a serious responsibility" if it broke bilateral negotiations for the demarcation of marine and submarine borders in the Gulf of Venezuela.

Zambrano issued a statement yesterday in response to a statement allegedly made in that connection by his Colombian counterpart, Carlos Lemos Simmonds. Here is the text of Zambrano's statement:

"International news agencies concur in attributing to Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds a statement to the effect that Colombia has terminated the negotiations with Venezuela but is considering a new negotiation formula at the same time. This statement has not been denied. The confusion regarding this statement and its seriousness are probably due to the journalistic nature of the information, which makes it different from the customary diplomatic style. Nevertheless, it would be advisable to recall that:

1. Venezuela has always felt, and currently feels, that negotiations are the best method of settling differences among states, and most particularly between countries like Colombia and Venezuela, between which friendship and cooperation are imperative. With respect to the particular question of the delimitation of marine and submarine areas with Colombia, Venezuela emphasizes the inexhaustible nature of direct negotiations because, as is known, this matter involves interests which are vital to our country and which, under no circumstances, can be entrusted to third parties.

2. In Venezuela's view, it is fundamental to preserve the full potential and effectiveness of negotiations as a means to settle this matter peacefully.

For this purpose it is essential to keep in mind present circumstances and the manner in which they can positively or negatively influence the outcome of the negotiations. Therefore, it is imperative to calmly determine the timeliness of any efforts and avoid any hastiness or impatience.

Naturally, if it is true that Colombia has unilaterally decided to suspend the negotiations, Colombia would be assuming a serious responsibility in reference

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to the future and history, which would place this aspect of our relations in an uncertain and patently delicate framework.

3. In any event, Venezuela feels that the assertion that the process of negotiations has been a "dialogue among the deaf" is an exaggeration. In opposition to this view, suffice it to note the progress that has been made in each stage of the negotiations and how the gap between views has been narrowed.

It is not fair to dismiss with a single phrase the great effort that has been made by a succession of Venezuelan and Colombian administrations, when there is no reason to feel that this process cannot continue in the future with increased effectiveness. At any rate, and using phrases contained in recent reports from Colombia, negotiations in good faith stand out as an appropriate and preferred method of settling differences among states when compared to "the dialogue among the deaf" and "fights among the blind."

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COUNTRY SECTION

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

SAUDI MINISTER'S VISIT 'POLITICAL'--Caracas, 7 Aug (PL)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco has stated that the Venezuelan visit of his Saudi colleague, Saud al-Faysal al-Saud was, "fundamentally, of a political nature." Al-Saud left this capital today, after a 2-day official visit. His next stop is Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was accompanied by a large delegation composed of important Saudi officials. The Saudi minister met with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Berti and other important persons. The talks concerned "international situations" that Venezuela and Saudi Arabia have been discussing since last year, the Venezuelan foreign minister said. He noted that they also discussed bilateral relations and common interests regarding OPEC, of which both countries are members. Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco informed Prince al-Saud about the territorial problems between Venezuela and Guyana. In a statement to the news media, the Saudi official referred to this situation and called for a friendly solution through bilateral negotiations. [Text] [PA091634 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1230 GMT 8 Aug 81]

EXCHANGE LOSSES BELOW ESTIMATES--Caracas, 12 Aug (PL)--The minister of finance has admitted that foreign exchange in the amount of 15,404,000,000 bolivares (approximately \$3.6 billion) left the country in the second quarter of this year. This amount is lower than what was estimated by some experts and business leaders. According to the president of the pro-Venezuela Association, Reinaldo Cervini, the flight of foreign exchange in Venezuela is approximately \$150 million per day. [Figure as received] In addition, one has to take into account that money does not leave the country in U.S. dollars alone, but also in bolivares, an easily convertible currency. Also, money leaves the country through the squandering that thousands of middle class Venezuelans do abroad, mainly in the United States. [Text] [PA121547 Caracas PRELA in Spanish to PRELA Havana 1400 GMT 12 Aug 81]

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